

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending a status message from the
2 access server to the gateway comprises sending a status message from the access server to the
3 gateway that indicates the access server is operational.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending a status message from the
2 access server to the gateway comprises sending a status message from the access server to the
3 gateway that specifies the capabilities of the access server.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein acknowledging to the access server
2 that the status message was received comprises sending a status acknowledgement message from
3 the gateway to the access server that indicates the status message was received.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein sending a status acknowledgement
2 message from the gateway to the access server that indicates the status message was received
3 comprises sending a status acknowledgement message from the gateway to the access server that
4 indicates the status message was received and that the gateway allows the access server to
5 receive calls.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein sending a status acknowledgement
2 message from the gateway to the access server indicates the status message was received
3 comprises sending a status acknowledgment message from the gateway to the access server that
4 indicates the status message was received and that the gateway allows the access server to
5 generate calls.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending an interface status
2 message from the access server to the gateway to register at least one interface on the access
3 server that is available to receive user information from the telephone switch.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising sending an interface status
2 acknowledgement from the gateway to the access server in response to receiving an interface
3 status message.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein sending an interface status message
2 from the access server to the gateway to register at least one interface on the access server that is
3 available to receive user information from the telephone switch comprises sending an interface
4 status message from the access server to the gateway to register at least one interface on the
5 access server that is available to receive user information from the telephone switch and to
6 provide status on at least one channel on the interface.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising sending a service message
2 from the access server to the gateway upon a change of state in one of the interfaces and
3 channels.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising sending a service message
2 from the gateway to the access server to request a change in the status of one or the at least one
3 interfaces and channels on the access server.

1 12. (Original) In a network architecture comprising a telephone switch, an access
2 server coupled to data network and the telephone switch via a telecommunications medium to
3 transmit user information between the telephone switch and the data network, and a gateway
4 coupled to the access server and the telephone switch via an out-of-band communications
5 medium to transmit signaling information between the telephone switch and the access server, a
6 method, comprising:

- 7 a) sending a continuity check message from the gateway to the access server; and
8 b) sending a continuity check result message from the access server to the gateway.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising sending a continuity
2 check result acknowledgment message from the gateway to the access server in response to
3 sending a continuity check result message from the access server to the gateway.

1 14. (Original) In a network architecture comprising a telephone switch, an access
2 server coupled to a data network and the telephone switch via a telecommunications medium to
3 transmit user information between the telephone switch and the data network, and a gateway
4 coupled to the access server and the telephone switch via an out-of-band communications
5 medium to transmit signaling information between the telephone switch and the access server, a
6 apparatus, comprising:

7 means for sending a status message from the access server to the gateway; and
8 means acknowledging to the access server that the status message was received.

1 15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the means for sending a status
2 message from the access server to the gateway comprises means for sending a status message
3 from the access server to the gateway that indicates the access server is operational.

1 16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the means for sending a status
2 message from the access server to the gateway comprises means for sending a status message
3 from the access server to the gateway that specifies the capabilities of the access server.

1 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the means for acknowledging to
2 the access server that the status message was received comprises means for sending a status
3 acknowledgement message from the gateway to the access server that indicates the status
4 message was received.

1 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the means for sending a status
2 acknowledgement message from the gateway to the access server that indicates the status
3 message was received comprises means for sending a status acknowledgement message was
4 received and that the gateway allows the access server to receive calls.

1 19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the means for sending a status
2 acknowledgement message from the gateway to the access server that indicates the status
3 message was received comprises means for sending a status acknowledgement message from the
4 gateway to the access server that indicates the status message was received and that the gateway
5 allows the access server to generate calls.

1 20. (Original) In a network architecture comprising a telephone switch, an access
2 server coupled to a data network and the telephone switch via a telecommunications medium to
3 transfer user information between the telephone switch and the data network, and a gateway
4 coupled to the access server and the telephone switch via an out-of-band communications
5 medium to transmit signaling information between the telephone switch and the access server, an
6 article of manufacture comprising:
7 a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied
8 therein comprising:
9 computer readable program means for sending a status message from the access server to
10 the gateway; and
11 computer readable program means acknowledging to the access server that the status
12 message was received.